

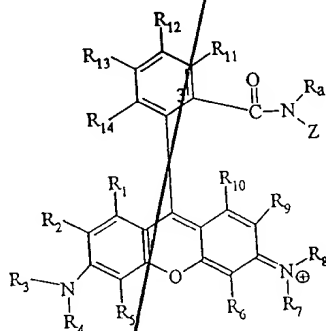
A,
S.B.

where R_1 , and R_{10} taken alone are hydrogen or halogen; R_2 , R_5 , R_6 and R_9 taken alone are hydrogen, alkyl, carboxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylether, alkylthioether, halogen or alkoxy; R_3 , R_4 , R_7 and R_8 , taken alone are hydrogen, and substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, carboxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl; R_2 and R_3 taken together are alkyl chains each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 2' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R_9 and R_8 , taken together are alkyl chains each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 7' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon; R_4 and R_5 taken together are alkyl, each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 4' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R_6 and R_7 taken together are alkyl, each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 5' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon; R_3 and R_4 taken together form an alkyl or alkylene chain containing up to 5 atoms in the principal chain, consisting of carbon and one or more heteroatoms from the group consisting of nitrogen or oxygen, with both terminal valence bonds of said chain being attached to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R_7 and R_8 , taken together form an alkyl or alkylene chain containing up to 5 atoms in the principal chain, consisting of carbon and one or more heteroatoms from the group consisting of nitrogen or oxygen, with both terminal valence bonds of said chain being attached to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon; R_{11} , R_{12} , R_{13} , and R_{14} are each hydrogen or halogen, where R_a and R_a are non-hydrogen substituents, wherein R_a confers resistance to lactam ring formation [, and R_a , includes a group reactive to derivatization]; and,

conjugating the fluorophore with an organic compound to be labeled under covalent bond forming conditions, the conjugating through the R_a group of the fluorophore, the resultant conjugate being fluorescent upon excitation with light of a determinable wavelength.

10. (Amended) A fluorescent conjugate comprising:
 a conjugated substance and a fluorophore, the conjugated substance being an amino acid, peptide, protein, nucleotide, oligonucleotide, or nucleic acid to which is attached one or more fluorophores, the fluorescent conjugate having the structure illustrated by Formula I

FORMULA I



where R_1 and R_{10} taken alone are hydrogen or halogen; R_2 , R_5 , R_6 and R_9 taken alone are hydrogen, alkyl, carboxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylether, alkylthioether, halogen or alkoxy; R_3 , R_4 , R_7 and R_8 taken alone are hydrogen, and substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, carboxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl; R_2 and R_3 taken together are alkyl chains each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 2' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R_5 and R_8 taken together are alkyl chains each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 7' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon; R_4 and R_5 taken together are alkyl, each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 4' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R_6 and R_7 taken together are alkyl, each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 5' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon; R_3 and R_4 taken together form an alkyl or alkylene chain containing up to 5 atoms in the principal chain, consisting of carbon and one or more heteroatoms from the group consisting of nitrogen or oxygen, with both terminal valence bonds of said chain being attached to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R_7 and R_8 taken together form an alkyl or alkylene chain containing up to 5 atoms in the principal chain, consisting of carbon and one or more heteroatoms from the group consisting of nitrogen or oxygen, with both terminal valence bonds of said chain being attached to the